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Letter dated 31 March 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the texts of the following documents adopted at the conclusion of the Special Conference on Afghanistan, held in Moscow on 27 March 2009 under the auspices of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO): the Declaration of the Conference and the Statement and Plan of Action of the SCO member States and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime (see annexes I-III).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter and its annexes to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 17 of its current session, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Igor **Shcherbak**

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Annex I to the letter dated 31 March 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Plan of Action of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime

In follow-up to the points of agreement and mutual understanding set forth in the Statement of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime, the SCO Member States and Afghanistan agree on the following Plan of Action.

1. Fight against illicit drug trafficking

Using the format of the meeting between heads of anti-drug agencies of the SCO Member States, which is now in the process of establishment, based on the Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors of June 17th, 2004, it is agreed to promote practical interaction in the following areas:

in carrying out comparative analysis of the corresponding legislative frameworks of the Member States, improving legal framework of cooperation in combating illicit trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors;

in inter-agency information exchange;

in conducting joint operations;

in controlling trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors;

in countering the legalization of income derived from trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors;

in training of personnel of anti-drug agencies;

in drug abuse prevention activities, including demand reduction measures, as well as in developing and introducing new modes of treatment, social and medical rehabilitation of drug addicts;

in establishing regular contacts and developing effective interaction between the meeting of heads of anti-drug agencies of the SCO Member States and relevant authorities of the Afghan Government.

The SCO Member States will consider establishing a regional anti-drug center and a specialized SCO training center for training of officers of the relevant authorities of the SCO Member States, Observer States and Afghanistan, responsible for taking measures against illicit trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors.

The SCO Member States will take measures to tap the potential of the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating illicit trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, to engage Observer States of the Organization as well as Afghanistan and Turkmenistan in anti-drug cooperation, including in the creation of "anti-drug and financial security belts". Particular focus will be placed on such issues as:

improving mechanisms of cooperation between the agencies concerned of the SCO Member States and Afghanistan in fighting against transnational criminal groups, providing logistical and training support to the relevant authorities of the SCO Member States and Afghanistan to contribute to drug control;

advancing collaboration between the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Collective Security Treaty Organization in fighting drugs continues to remain an important priority area of joint activities based on the Memorandum of Understanding reached between the SCO Secretariat and the CSTO Secretariat;

the SCO Member States will continue their efforts to expand the mandate of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan with regard to combating illicit drug trafficking and drug cultivation.

the SCO Member States will tighten control over the chemical substances used to produce drugs, and are ready to make necessary efforts to cut off illegal precursor supplies to Afghanistan and seek cooperation in this field with States and international organizations concerned.

2. Fight against terrorism

The SCO Member States and Afghanistan believe that in order to effectively combat terrorism it is necessary to strengthen counter terrorist collaboration for comprehensive measures to jointly respond to terrorist threats. Efforts will be focused on the following areas:

border control;

checking individuals suspected of being involved in terrorist activities;

conducting joint operations to counter terrorist threats;

involving Afghanistan, in a phased manner, in the SCO-wide collaboration in fighting terrorism in the region;

establishing effective mechanisms to prevent and suppress terrorist activities;

making joint efforts to obtain information regarding terrorist organizations threatening the security of SCO Member States and Afghanistan;

setting up an expert consultation mechanism on the basis of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure and Afghan relevant authorities;

exchanging information on terrorist activities and organizations and experience in fighting against them;

exchanging lists of terrorist: suspects between SCO Member States and Afghanistan, on a mutual basis;

providing assistance in apprehension and transfer of terrorists;

tracing and cutting off the sources and channels of funding terrorist organizations;

inviting relevant Afghan bodies to take part in joint law enforcement exercises carried out by the Member States as well as in workshops, courses and other SCO events related to combating terrorism.

3. Fight against organized crime

The SCO Member States, using the format of meetings between heads of ministries of internal affairs and of public security, which is now in the process of establishment, will:

advance cooperation with relevant Afghan authorities to fight illicit trafficking in weapons, munitions and explosives and other forms of transnational organized crime;

improve the exchange of operational information and experience related to combating organized crime;

provide mutual assistance in investigating criminal cases and help collect and transfer evidence;

explore opportunities for strengthening cooperation to combat transnational organized crime, including those carried out on a regular basis, and for exchanging, if necessary, teams of law enforcement officers in order to speed up criminal investigations;

implement, by all available means, various programs of further and advanced training of Afghan law enforcement officers.

* * *

In order to improve the cooperation mechanism and boost its efficiency, the SCO Member States and Afghanistan agreed to consider the issue of raising the representation in the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group to the level of directors of departments of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the SCO Member States and Afghanistan and to consider developing a plan of interaction with CSTO Foreign Ministers Council's Working Group on Afghanistan to jointly combat terrorism, drug production and trafficking, organized crime, and, inter alia, to hold joint meetings of both Groups.

* * *

The SCO Member States will further develop their bilateral trade and economic cooperation with Afghanistan, engagement in international efforts to provide assistance in its economic recovery, and

will explore opportunities for implementing joint projects aimed at social and economic rehabilitation of this country.

In this regard, the SCO Member States will consider the proposal of the Republic of Tajikistan to sponsor an international conference of Ministers of Economic Affairs in Dushanbe.

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The SCO Member States will continue exchanging their views on using the existing international cooperation mechanisms related to Afghanistan and re-establishing those that proved to be effective.

Annex II to the letter dated 31 March 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime

The Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan,

Supporting the efforts of the Afghan Government, with the assistance of the international community, aimed at ensuring social and economic development, building democratic institutions, strengthening operational capability of the Afghan national army and police and enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement bodies,

Recognizing the interconnected challenges facing Afghanistan, including continued terrorist activities and the cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, and that both pose a serious threat the stability of Afghanistan, its neighbours and other countries,

While welcoming efforts of the Afghan Government to decrease cultivation of opium, express concern about the continued cultivation and production of narcotics drugs as a source of financing terrorist activities in Afghanistan, the region and abroad,

Supporting the efforts of the Afghan Government and International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan (ISAF) to improve law enforcement and combat the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and curtailing the flow of precursors more effectively,

Noting the significant assistance provided by the SCO Member States to the Afghan Government and their commitment to sustain such support for tackling the challenges in Afghanistan,

Stressing the importance of maintaining the leading role of the United Nations in coordinating international assistance in Afghanistan,

Attaching great importance to the efforts made by international and regional organizations including the United Nations (UN), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) to combat the threats of terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime,

Declare the following:

1. Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking

We call upon all States concerned to implement, in the framework of the United Nations activities, and other international and regional organizations, existing international strategies to combat narcotics in Afghanistan and the region, which in particular provide for strict implementation of Resolution 1817 of the UN Security Council and decisions of relevant international fora, as well as for creating and reinforcing the "anti-drug and financial security belts" in the region.

We call for further improvement of the SCO drug control cooperation mechanism as well as the elaboration of plans of practical cooperation between anti-drug agencies of the SCO Member States and other states of the region, including information exchange, precursor control and close interaction between this mechanism and relevant UN agencies, as well as other international and regional organizations involved in combating cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotics.

We stress the need to strengthen international and regional cooperation to counter the threat of narcotics, including through support of programs and projects implemented by the UN, the CSTO, the CIS, the EU, and the OSCE in Afghanistan and Central Asia related to border security and management.

We call for joining the efforts of all States and organizations concerned aimed at creating the "anti-drug and financial security belts" in the region.

We welcome the fact that ISAF in cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan joined the fight against drug production and proliferation in Afghanistan and support its wide-ranging participation in multilateral efforts in this area. We consider it important that the UN Security Council takes this into account when discussing the ISAF mandate next time.

We call for wider cooperation between the SCO, CSTO and CIS on the anti-drug and counter-terrorism tracks, and stress the importance of the multilateral preventive operation named Operation Channel carried out under the CSTO auspices, as well as of increasing the number of observer States participating in this operation.

We believe that full operationalization of the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre established to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors with the participation of Afghanistan will strengthen control over the illicit production and abuse of and trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors in Central Asia.

2. Combating International Terrorism

We believe that the list of priorities for the international community in combating terrorism should include the improvement of its international legal framework, in particular early elaboration and adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as the elaboration of regional counter-terrorism legal instruments.

We call for adherence to relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council concerning international terrorism.

We call for stopping the attempts to spread terrorist ideology as well as for strict compliances with UN SC Resolution 1624 (2005), which condemns all acts of terrorism irrespective of their motivation, and call upon Member States to prohibit by law terrorist acts and incitement to commit such acts, as well as to deny safe heaven to those guilty of committing these acts; and we consider it important to advance international, inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue in order to fight terrorist ideology, which would involve the civil society, including religious leaders, mass media, business communities and educational structures.

We reaffirm our intention to continue participating in the activities of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Eurasian Group on combating Money-Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG), in particular with a view to stop the financial flows related to illicit trafficking in drugs and their precursors, and to make it a separate area in the EAG and FATF activities.

The SCO Member States intend to invest more efforts in combating terrorist threat using the capacity of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure to a greater extent, and the practice of joint SCO counter-terrorism exercises, and we invite Observer States and other countries concerned to participate in the collective efforts, including those related to creating the "anti-terrorist security belt", and consider taking part in transiting non-military cargoes needed by ISAF.

The SCO Member States with the assistance of the Afghan Government will advance cooperation in responding to terrorist threats, ensuring security and protection of their citizens and diplomatic missions in Afghanistan.

3. Combating Transnational Organized Crime

We reaffirm our firm commitment to counter the growing illegal trafficking in arms, munitions, explosive and other types of transnational organized crime, which pose a serious threat to the lives and security of our peoples.

We believe that an effective coordination mechanism for the competent authorities to be established within the SCO in the form of meetings between the ministers of interior affairs and public security, as well as fostering and developing links with competent authorities of other States, international and regional agencies will help in combating organized crime.

* * *

We believe that a regular dialogue on joint action against abovementioned threats to be launched within the SCO with participations of other States and international organizations concerned could become an effective supplement to the existing international fora for addressing the challenges of terrorism, narcotics and organized crime in the region.

We express our commitment to enhance cooperation with all relevant States and international and regional organizations, namely UN, EU, CIS, CSTO, OSCE, NATO and CICA on matters of common interest in the spirit of this Statement and the Plan of Action of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime.

Annex III to the letter dated 31 March 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration of the special Conference on Afghanistan convened under the auspices of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

(Moscow, 27 March 2009)

The participants in the Conference welcomed the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) initiative to organize this forum, expressed their satisfaction with results and noted that the outcome was in line with the efforts of the international community, namely the United Nations, North-Atlantic Treaty Organization, European Union, Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Collective Security Treaty Organization, Organization of Islamic Conference and Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, other international and regional organizations and individual states to counteract threats of terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crimes. The participants also:

Recognized the interconnected nature of the challenges in Afghanistan and the region and underscored the importance of sustained international efforts to achieve a stable, peaceful, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan and stressed that such assistance should be comprehensive under the leadership of Afghanistan and the central role of the UN in coordinating international assistance and based on strict adherence of the UN Charter;

Emphasized the need for sustained international support to strengthen Afghan security institutions to effectively combat the scourge of terrorism and production and trafficking of narcotics;

Acknowledged the important role of the International Security Assistance Force and coalition forces to help the Government of Afghanistan provide security to Afghanistan and, in that regard, welcomed the measures adopted by international forces, in consultation with the Government of Afghanistan to ensure closer coordination of operations with Afghan authorities, which inter alia is of special significance for increasing effectiveness of counteracting illegal production and drug trafficking;

Acknowledged the progress of the Afghan Government in reducing the cultivation of poppy, despite limited resources at its disposal, and stressed the need for enhanced regional and international efforts to combat narcotics effectively and resolutely, including provision of alternative means of livelihood for farmers through development of regional markets and transit arrangements, international support for law enforcement and criminal justice agencies of Afghanistan, elimination of drug-laboratories, strengthening anti-narcotics control to curb the flow of precursors and reducing demand and consumption;

Stressed the importance of concerted and combined efforts in the region to counter terrorism, illicit narcotics and organized crime, in particular coordination and cooperation of Afghanistan and its neighbours;

Were encouraged by growing dialogue between the governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan aimed at strengthening of mutual trust, as well as by the Joint Declaration on Directions of Bilateral

Cooperation, signed on January 6, 2009 in Kabul, and at finding effective means to combat the menace of terrorism, including denying sanctuaries and dismantling the extremist and terrorist network and ideological centers;

Expressed conviction that the successful combat against terrorism, production and trafficking of narcotics and organized crime in Afghanistan and the region requires a due combination of enforcement and administrative methods, accompanied by targeted social and economic programs;

Underlined the need for sustained joint efforts to train Afghan experts in the field of countering drug trafficking, customs service and police;

Called for a full operationalization of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) as an important tool in combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors;

Welcomed the initiative of G8 to facilitate development projects aimed at social and economic development in Afghanistan and Pakistan in the context of cooperation with all neighboring States, as well as the enhancement of counter-narcotics' regional dimension by reaching out, at the next G8 meeting on June 26 and 27, 2009 in Trieste, to the interested Countries and relevant Organizations, and in the same vein, commended the Ankara Trilateral Summit Process;

Supported transregional projects, aimed at comprehensive regional development, in particular construction of a united infrastructure network and energy corridor, transportation and transit, with consideration of activities of relevant regional organizations;

Noted that the SCO was one of the appropriate fora for a wide dialogue with participation of partners on the Afghanistan-related issues in the context of joint efforts of the international community and Afghanistan and for practical interaction between Afghanistan and its neighboring states in combating terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime;

Supported the need for close cooperation and coordination among international and regional organizations under UN coordination, in particular through United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, in joint response to those threats and challenges, and in this regard welcomed adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 1868 on March 23, 2009;

Considered the view contained in the Statement and Plan of Action of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States and Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime and expressed the intent to explore the possibility of aiding their implementation.